Brigadier General Paul Bontrager

Acting Senior Commander 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum

Brigadier General Paul Bontrager enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1982, serving his enlisted tour in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He subsequently attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. In 1988 he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Political Science and commissioned as an Aviation Officer. He holds two Master's of Science Degrees, one in Education and one in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy. Brigadier General Bontrager is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Joint Advanced Warfighting School.



Brigadier General Bontrager's key command assignments include B/4-501st Aviation Regiment (Attack) at Camp Page, Korea; C/1-17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; 7-17th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Director of Flight Concepts Division at Fort Eustis, Virginia; the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Train Advise Assist Command-South at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Major deployment history includes Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; Operation Joint Forge; Operation Enduring Freedom; Operation Iraqi Freedom; Operation New Dawn; and Operation Resolute Support.

Brigadier General Bontrager is a Master Army Aviator and rated in several military and civilian aircraft. His awards and decorations include two awards of the Legion of Merit; six awards of the Bronze Star; two awards of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; two awards of the Meritorious Service Medal; three awards of the Army Air Medal; three awards of the Army Commendation Medal; the Joint Service Achievement Medal; the Air Assault Badge; the Master Parachutist Badge; the Combat Action Badge; the Military Free Fall Badge; German Free Fall Wings; and the Ranger Tab.